



REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of September 11, 2006

Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF)

On September 11, 2006 Richard Saunders, a documented member of the *Crips* gang, was arrested in Union City, GA by members of SERFTF and officers from Union City PD (UCPD), who acted on information provided by investigators from the New York / New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF). Authorities in New Jersey wanted Saunders for Homicide after he allegedly beat a man to death. NY/NJ RFTF, with critical assistance from the Technical Operations Group (TOG), developed information indicating that Saunders fled to Union City. SERFTF acted on this information, later receiving information that UCPD spotted a vehicle owned by Saunders. SERFTF and UCPD units responded to that location and established surveillance. While investigators observed the target location, they received a phone call from Saunders' mother, who stated Saunders contacted her and relayed that he knew law enforcement surrounded his location. Saunders' mother also conveyed that he behaved erratically while on the phone. As investigators prepared to make entry on the apartment, Saunders' cousin arrived at the scene and offered to attempt to convince Saunders to exit the residence peacefully. Saunders' cousin, using a UCPD PA system, spoke for several minutes, at which time Saunders' exited the residence and surrendered. Incident to arrest, investigators conducted a search of the target residence and seized two handguns. Saunders currently awaits extradition to New Jersey.

***Crips* Gang Member**



Richard Saunders

**Wanted for:
Homicide**

Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSWRFTF)

On September 15, 2006 Jesus Rodriguez was arrested in Mecca, CA by members of PSWRFTF, agents from the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, officers from the Ontario, CA PD, and deputies from the Riverside (CA) and San Bernardino County (CA) Sheriffs' Departments. The Nye County (NV) Sheriff's Office (NYSO) wanted Rodriguez for Attempted Murder of a Peace Officer, and by USMS for Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution. On August 27, 2006 a NYSO deputy stopped a vehicle containing four occupants in Pahrump, NV. As the deputy approached the vehicle, one of the vehicle's passengers fired from a window and struck the deputy in the leg. Authorities later recovered the vehicle, along with information indicating Rodriguez's role as the shooter. NYSO contacted the District of Nevada-Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (NV FIST) for assistance in locating and apprehending Rodriguez. NV FIST developed information that Rodriguez fled to his brother's home in Mecca, CA, and contacted PSWRFTF. On September 13, 2006 investigators established surveillance at the target residence, later observing Rodriguez exit and enter a vehicle. Units attempted to stop Rodriguez, but he fled and used the cover of darkness to temporarily evade capture. Investigators later developed information indicating Rodriguez returned to the original target residence, responded to that site, and established a perimeter. Rodriguez later exited and peacefully surrendered. A search incident to arrest resulted in the seizure of two 9mm handguns. Rodriguez currently awaits extradition to Nevada.



Jesus Rodriguez

**Wanted for:
Attempted Murder
& UFAP**

New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF)

On September 15, 2006 Ricky Kirkland was arrested in Brooklyn, NY by members of NY/NJ RFTF. New York, NY PD (NYPD) wanted Kirkland for Homicide after he allegedly shot and killed a man in 2003. Authorities allege that Kirkland approached an associate with the intent of robbing him, but during the course of the robbery, Kirkland produced a handgun and fatally shot the victim. Authorities also wanted Kirkland in connection with a narcotics conspiracy involving more than sixty-five individuals. NY/NJ RFTF investigators, with critical assistance from the Technical Operations Group (TOG), developed information on Kirkland's location at a housing project in Brooklyn. Investigators responded to the target location, observed Kirkland, and safely took him into custody. Incident to arrest, investigators recovered a loaded firearm. During post-arrest processing, Kirkland provided a full confession to NYPD detectives regarding his role in the homicide.



Ricky Kirkland
Wanted for:
Homicide

Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF)

On September 11, 2006 Drake Morris was arrested in East Chicago, IN by members of GLRFTF. The Lake County (IN) Sheriff's Department wanted Morris for Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance. GLRFTF investigators developed information on Morris' location in East Chicago, responded to that location, and established surveillance. Authorities believed that Morris sold narcotics from the rear of the target residence, and never ventured far from that home. During surveillance, investigators observed a male matching Morris' description exit the target residence. Investigators later identified this subject as Morris. Morris began playing basketball with several associates, when investigators observed a vehicle approach. Morris approached the vehicle and placed something from his waistband into the passenger area. Investigators moved in and Morris fled back into the residence. GLRFTF established a perimeter, and following a twenty-five minute standoff, Morris peacefully surrendered. A search of the residence conducted with consent resulted in the seizure of three shotguns, three rifles, five handguns, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. A later inventory of the vehicle Morris approached resulted in the discovery of quantities of marijuana and cocaine, as well as assorted drug paraphernalia.



Drake Morris
Wanted for:
Narcotics Violations

Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force (GCRFTF)

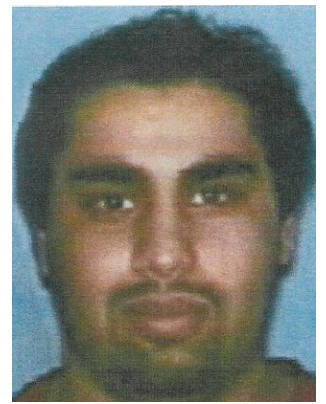
On September 16, 2006 Ferlanda O'Neil Thomas was arrested in Vicksburg, MS by deputies from the Warren County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) acting on information provided by GCRFTF investigators. Authorities in Lehigh County (PA) wanted Thomas for Robbery, Kidnapping, Attempted Rape, Aggravated Indecent Assault, as well as various other charges relating to an incident occurring on September 14, 2006. During this incident Thomas allegedly carjacked a female at knifepoint and held her against her will as he drove away. The victim later leapt from the vehicle as it traveled at 60 mph after Thomas allegedly pulled down his pants and demanded oral sex. Though seriously injured by her fall from the vehicle, the victim survived and helped provide information identifying Thomas as a suspect. The Technical Operations Group and Financial Surveillance Unit provided critical assistance in tracking Thomas to the Vicksburg area, at which point marked WCSD units acting with GCRFTF stopped and safely took Thomas into custody. At the time of arrest, Thomas operated the victim's vehicle and possessed her purse and credit cards. Thomas later provided a full confession to his role in this incident.



Ferlanda O. Thomas
Wanted for:
Robbery, Carjacking,
Kidnapping &
Sexual Assault

Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF)

On September 15, 2006 Ahmad Mohammed was arrested in East Elmhurst, NY by members of the New York / New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) acting on information provided by CARFTF investigators. Authorities in Fairfax County (VA) wanted Mohammed for Murder for his alleged role in the beating death of a twenty-one month old boy on September 12, 2006. Mohammed agreed to watch three children for his wife, but allegedly became upset with the victim, beating him so severely that physicians discovered a skull fracture traveling the entire width of the boy's head, as well as a severe laceration of the liver. The boy's four year old sister witnessed the entire attack. Mohammad fled immediately after the incident. CARFTF investigators, with critical assistance from the Technical Operations Group (TOG), developed information on Mohammed's location at a motel in East Elmhurst, and contacted NY/NJ RFTF for assistance in apprehending him. NY/NJ RFTF investigators immediately acted on the CARFTF lead and safely took Mohammed into custody.

**Ahmad Mohammed****Wanted for:
Murder**